

HANDHELDS

FAQ

Q My phone already has a couple of games installed, but I've heard that you can download new ones. Where can I get them, and will they be compatible with my handset?

A There are two main types of mobile games in the UK: J2ME and Symbian. J2ME games run on nearly all handsets that support Java, while Symbian games have much better graphics and sound but are compatible only with Nokia Series 60 smartphones.

You can buy games through your network operator's WAP portal or from mobile gaming websites such as www.glu.com, www.gameloft.com or www.mobu.com. When you've paid for your game, a WAP link is sent to your mobile to download the game via GPRS.

When choosing which game to buy, make sure you carefully check the list of compatible handsets, as not all games are compatible with all phones.

Chris Finnamore

Components and handhelds expert

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NOKIA 6111

★★★★

£224 inc VAT SIM-free, free to £30 depending on contract

Nokia's 6111 is the latest handset from the Finnish manufacturer, and it moves away from the traditional 'soap bar' design. Its sliding chassis means there is room for a large keypad, despite the phone's small size.

The 6111 is available in pink or black and, unlike many recent Nokias, has a normal keypad layout. The phone is fairly bulbous but fits comfortably in your hand, and the keypad's large keys are spaced evenly and ideal for texting. You can slide the phone open with one hand, but there is no ridge to grip to close it again, so you have to put your thumb on the screen. The phone is also comfortable to hold during phone calls, but call quality is mediocre, with some distortion from the speaker.

The 218x160 pixel screen is significantly larger than most non-smartphone Nokias, and is very bright and colourful with a fast refresh rate. This makes it perfect for mobile games, and the 6111 comes with three full games, including an excellent 3D rally title.

Even though the 6111 is not a Symbian-based smartphone like the 6630 or 6680, it has a similar menu layout. Instead of the traditional Nokia menu with its large icons arranged in a vertically scrolling list, the 6111's small icons are grouped in rows and columns across the screen. This makes it easier to see your phone's functions at a glance, but harder to skip to a specific one in a hurry.

It might be a budget handset, but the 6111 has some impressive features. The calendar program is just as comprehensive as that installed on Nokia's smartphones, with support for



month and week views, the option to add memos and alarms, and a to-do list. The phone can even synchronise your contacts and calendar over Bluetooth using the supplied PC Suite program, so it can keep you organised just as well as a PDA.

The 6111 can also play MP3 and AAC music files. The music-player application has a graphic equaliser and support for ID3 tags but, as the phone has only 23MB of free storage, there is room for just five or six songs. Sound quality through the supplied headphones is mediocre, and their proprietary connector means that there is no way to swap them for a better pair. The 6111 also includes a built-in FM radio with automatic tuning and presets.

As with Sony Ericsson's W800i (see 'Also consider...' on page 23), you turn the 6111 on its side to use the camera. This makes taking photos feel more natural, as you can operate the shutter button with

your index finger rather than use your thumb on the front of the phone. The camera has only a single megapixel sensor, so photos are nowhere near as good as the W800i's, but the bright flash makes it possible to take reasonable night photos.

Nokia's 6111 is a good-looking handset with plenty of features for the price. Its call quality is not the best, but its excellent organiser and vibrant screen are impressive for a budget phone.

Chris Finnamore

SUMMARY

- ☒ Vibrant screen
- ☒ Powerful calendar
- ☒ Mediocre call quality

MOBILE PHONE 23MB storage, 218x160 pixel LCD, Bluetooth, infrared, megapixel camera, 3½ hours talktime, 240 hours standby, 47x23x85mm, weighs 92g
PART CODE 6111
SUPPLIER www.expansys.com (SIM-free); www.t-mobile.co.uk (contract)
DETAILS www.nokia.co.uk

Also consider...

TOMTOM Navigator 5 Navigation Pack

★★★★★

£370 inc VAT



TomTom's navigation pack includes an HP iPAQ PDA, a Bluetooth GPS receiver and version 5 of TomTom's Navigator software. The kit is easy to set up; the software installs from the supplied SD card and is configured to pair with the Bluetooth receiver included. The software is easy to use, with voice prompts and a clear display. This is a great-value PDA and navigation device.



GPS NAVIGATION PACK GPS navigation kit, HP iPAQ hx2110 PDA, TomTom Bluetooth GPS receiver, TomTom Navigator 5 software, windscreen/dash-board mount SUPPLIER www.mobilefun.co.uk
DETAILS www.tomtom.com ☒ Fast route calculation ☒ Quiet speaker FULL REVIEW Feb 2006

NAVICORE Personal for Symbian Series 60

★★★★★

£178 inc VAT



Navicore's Personal is a GPS navigation system for the Symbian Series 60 operating system, as used by Nokia and Siemens smartphones. It consists of a Bluetooth GPS receiver and an RS MMC card containing the map program.

Planning a route is easy thanks to the logical software, and voice prompts are clear and accurate. It's the best GPS system for a Series 60 smartphone, and is also very good value.



SMARTPHONE GPS KIT GPS Navigation for Symbian Series 60 OS, SiRF III Bluetooth GPS receiver, UK maps PART CODE 133-8432 SUPPLIER www.carphonewarehouse.com DETAILS www.navicoretech.com
☒ Flexible interface ☒ Slow route planning FULL REVIEW Mar 2006

ACER
n311

★★★★★

£300 inc VAT

Acer's n311 is the replacement for the n50, its previous high-end PDA. It is smaller and sleeker than its predecessor, has a much higher-resolution screen, and runs the latest Windows Mobile 5 operating system.

The n50 was a slim and attractive PDA, but the n311 is even smaller. It is very slim, and the front is almost entirely taken up by the 3.7" screen. The n311 is much smaller than Dell's Axim X51v, and the silver and black finish is attractive. Despite its slimness the n311 feels stiff and robust. The stylus is accurate, but the joystick is so close to the bottom of the PDA that it is hard to use with one hand.

The n311 has a 480x640 pixel screen, meaning it has four times the resolution of its predecessor. This makes text and graphics sharper on the screen, and also leaves more room for Pocket Internet Explorer to display web pages properly. If you are near a wireless hotspot, connecting to the internet is easy using the n311's built-in wireless networking and the more technically minded should be able to connect to the internet through their mobile phone using Bluetooth.

Aside from some small improvements to the standard Word Mobile, Excel Mobile and PowerPoint Mobile programs, the n311's Windows Mobile 5 operating system has the significant advantage of supporting persistent memory. PDAs based on previous versions



of Windows Mobile stored all documents in volatile memory, so you would lose all your data if the PDA ran out of battery power. Persistent memory keeps its data even if you lose all power, so your documents are much more secure. The only disadvantage is that it is slightly slower than volatile memory, so loading documents takes more time than on the n50.

The n311 has 128MB of persistent memory to store programs and data, as well as an SD card slot for optional additional storage. This gives it enough room for plenty of contacts, emails and documents, but also some space for media files. The n311 will play MP3 and WMA audio files, and playback quality is reasonable, although the treble is slightly muddy. Windows Mobile 5 will also synchronise your media with Windows Media Player 10 on your PC, so any audio and video files Media Player can play are automatically converted to the right format

for the PDA. The n311 could play our test video files without any problems, but frame rates were jerky during fast action sequences.

Acer's n311 is not quite as fast as Dell's Axim X51v (below), nor does it have as much standard memory. However, it is £25 cheaper, slimmer and better looking, so if you want a full-featured and stylish PDA, the n311 is a good buy.

Chris Finnamore

SUMMARY

- ✓ Slim and light
- ✓ High-resolution screen
- ✓ Good value

PDA Windows Mobile 5.0, 3.7" 480x640 LCD, 400MHz Samsung S3C2440 processor, 64MB RAM, 128MB storage (85MB available), Bluetooth, infrared, 802.11b WiFi, SD/MMC slot
PART CODE n311
SUPPLIER www.dabs.com
DETAILS www.acer.co.uk

CHOOSING A...
Smartphone

Follow the steps to find your ideal specs

STYLE: Handset
OS: Windows Mobile 2003
SCREEN: 176x220; 65,536 colours
INPUT: Keypad
CAMERA: 640x480
BLUETOOTH: Yes
DATA CALLS: GPRS
Recommended minimum in grey

1 A smartphone's operating system – Palm OS, Windows Mobile or Symbian – dictates its basic features and what third-party software you can install. Windows Mobile 5.0 has the familiar look and feel of Windows, right down to a Start button, and is found on both handset- and PDA-style smartphones.

The only Palm OS smartphone available is Palm's Treo 650. There are four types of Symbian operating systems; series 60, 80, 90 and UIQ. Series 60, 80 and 90 are found on Nokia smartphones, while Sony Ericsson uses UIQ for its P900 smartphone series. Windows Mobile 5.0, Palm OS and Symbian all support third-party applications, and there is a vast amount of both freeware and commercial software available.

Unlike Windows Mobile 5.0 and Palm OS, Symbian can be customised by the phone's manufacturer and so may differ from phone to phone.

2 All smartphones come with a colour screen. A high-colour depth of 65,536 colours is important for viewing photos or video clips.

Typically users navigate and input information into a handset type of smartphone using the keypad and buttons or a jog dial. PDA-style smartphones usually have a touch screen, and both Pocket PC and Palm have handwriting recognition features as well as onscreen keyboards. A few have a built-in QWERTY keyboard.

3 Cameras are common in smartphones. Resolution is limited, with two megapixels and a fixed focus lens being the best you'll get. However, as most images will be viewed only onscreen or sent as a video message, this shouldn't be a problem for most people.

4 Bluetooth makes it easier to link your phone to a PC for synchronisation or wireless web access. For internet access, a GPRS or 3G mobile contract is essential. Data is billed per megabyte downloaded, but if you sign up for a data bundle when buying your smartphone it will work out cheaper.

SONY ERICSSON
W800i

★★★★★

£255 SIM-free; from free to £200 with contract

This is a superb music player and phone in one. Transferring music to the phone is easy using the supplied software, and the phone's music-playing application is excellent. Sound quality from the supplied headphones is superb, and the autofocus camera is the best we have seen on a phone, especially at night.



MOBILE PHONE Music phone, tri-band, 400 hours standby, 540 minutes of talk time, Bluetooth/IR connectivity, radio, 512MB memory Stick Duo, 176x200 pixel display, 99g, 100x46x20.5mm (HWD) PART CODE W800 SUPPLIER www.expansys.com (SIM-free); Orange/Vodafone/O2/T-Mobile/Virgin (contract) DETAILS www.sonyericsson.co.uk ✓ Superb sound quality ✓ Stiff keypad buttons FULL REVIEW Dec 2005

DELL
Axim X51v 624MHz

★★★★★

£325 inc VAT

Dell's Axim X51v is an update to the Axim X50v, previously the fastest handheld you could buy. The X51v shares the X50's powerful 624MHz processor and Intel 3D graphics, but it comes with Windows Mobile 5.

The X51v can connect to the internet using its built-in wireless networking or via a Bluetooth mobile phone. It also has persistent memory, so you won't lose your data if the PDA runs out of battery. It is expensive, but no PDA is faster or has more features.



PDA Windows Mobile 5, 3.7" 480x640 LCD, 624MHz Intel XScale processor, 64MB RAM, 256MB storage (195MB available), Bluetooth, infrared, 802.11b, SD/MMC slot, CF slot PART CODE X51v SUPPLIER Dell 0870 907 5818 DETAILS www.dell.co.uk ✓ Powerful, with an excellent screen ✗ Expensive
FULL REVIEW Apr 2006